



Press release  
For immediate release

**ALWAYS PRESENT  
DANCER AND CHOREOGRAPHER FERNAND NAULT WOULD BE 100 YEARS OLD  
A monument of Quebec's artistic heritage**

**Gatineau, Monday, December 7, 2020** - The names of Quebec personalities who have marked the artistic disciplines of **literature, visual arts** or even **singing** are often mentioned. Among others we think of **Anne Hébert, Jean-Paul Riopelle** and **Félix Leclerc**. But Quebec also has a worthy ambassador of dance whose work is still presented on our stages and beyond our borders. This ambassador is **dancer and choreographer Fernand Nault**, whose **100<sup>th</sup> birthday will be celebrated on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

Fernand Nault, a leader of Quebec's artistic heritage. **In the 1940s**, the young man from Montreal, passionate about dance, has big dreams. He settles in the **United States**, refines his art with the great contemporary masters, and develops a brilliant career as a dancer, choreographer and artistic director. In **1965**, he returns to **Quebec** and joins **Les Grands Ballets Canadiens**. This partnership allows Nault and the Montreal cultural organization to acquire a solid reputation in the country and on the international scene. He also makes a major contribution to the professional training program of the École supérieure des Grands Ballets Canadiens, now the École supérieure de ballet du Québec.

Nault's work is unquestionably an important choreographic heritage from Quebec and Canada. Acquired and produced in Canada, the United States, Asia and Europe, his creations have received many acclaims. **Carmina Burana, Tommy, La Fille mal gardée**, to name a few. Even today, sixty years after its conceptualization, its famous ballet production of the **Nutcracker** continues to move audiences.

An important player in the development of dance in Quebec, Fernand Nault is a reference in time, a national treasure. His work as a pioneer, creator and master teacher, contributes to a rich and unique heritage that allows us to transmit, write stories and build identities.

"For me, to constitute a dance heritage is embodied, among other things, in the restaging of works. Ensuring its continuity, in Quebec, Canada and elsewhere, prompts us to rethink our approach to intangible heritage in order to appreciate it at its true value, in all its liveliness."

Fernand Nault's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday will be celebrated by a varied program entitled "Faire danser le patrimoine", underlines **André Laprise, trustee of the Fonds chorégraphique Fernand Nault**.

**Program: Faire danser la patrimoine**

Celebrating Fernand Nault's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, several occasions will take place over the coming months (in digital version, face-to-face when possible) including:

- *Fernand Nault*, Wikipedia article December 2020
- *Fernand Nault, un pionnier*, article December 2020
- *Je me souviens*, collection of testimonials December 2020
- *Fernand Nault*, historical captation Winter 2021
- *Legend of ballet*, commemorative stamp Spring 2021
- *M. Nault*, graphic novel Fall 2021
- *Fernand Nault : une passion, un legs*, travelling exhibition 2021-2022

Site web : [Fonds chorégraphique Fernand Nault \(FCFN\)](#)

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